

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending and under consideration in the application.

In the Office Action of October 7, 2003, claims 1-15 were rejected as anticipated by Takahashi et al., (USP 6,049,787). Some informalities in the claims and the Abstract were noted also.

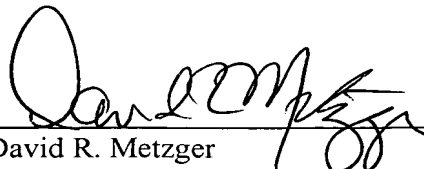
In response, claims 1-15 have been amended. Applicants note that further informalities were identified and addressed in the amendment.

Regarding the rejections of the claims, all independent claims 1, 3, 5, 10, and 13 now recite that the transmission paths are determined/established based on information stored in the information controller that characterizes the terminal equipment connected to the network. Applicants' claimed subject matter focuses on use of information about the terminal equipment (e.g., is the information recipient a television or a video cassette recorder, etc) in order to establish the proper transmission of the information. The information controller maintains a storage of the necessary information as "registered" information, as set forth in the claims.

This is in contrast to Takahashi et al, whose system relies on information about users. There is no information controller in Takahashi et al in which terminal equipment characterizing information is stored, much less use of that information to set up appropriate transmission of other information, such as a stream of information (e.g., a video or audio stream).

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Takahashi et al does not fairly teach or suggest the claimed subject matter and that the claims are patentable over Takahashi et al. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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